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Terrorism Review

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1 November 1984

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Terrorism Review

1 November 1984

NR

13 The Current Terrorist Threat Against 3.5(c) ted States

NR

This review is published every other week by the Directorate of Intelligence. Appropriate articles produced by other elements of the CIA as well as by other agencies of the US Intelligence Community will be considered for publication. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Executive Editor

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The Current Terrorist Threat Against the United States

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We believe there is a continuing threat of serious incidents of anti-American terrorism during the next few months:

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Latin America

Terrorism in Latin America usually occurs in the context of leftist guerrilla insurgencies whose members see the United States as the major supporter and manipulator of the governments they seek to overthrow. The terrorist threat to Americans is probably highest in Colombia, owing to US support for the government's actions against narcotics traffickers and leftist guerrillas. Both the traffickers and the guerrillas have demonstrated the capability and the will to strike back with terrorism against US officials and facilities.

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The terrorist threat to US personnel and installations elsewhere in Latin America seems lower, although a scattering of reports and indications prevent complacency:

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- In Ecuador, the leftist group Alfaro Vive, Carajo, which set off a bomb at the US

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Embassy in Quito in May 1984, indicate the group plans further attacks including a second bombing at the Embassy.

- In Chile, terrorist violence is on the upswing. US commercial facilities have occasionally been victimized by terrorist bombings.

- In Costa Rica, the leftwing terrorist group La Familia was surveilling Embassy personnel last January, as if planning a terrorist operation, but most members of the group have since been arrested.

- In Guatemala, the Revolutionary Armed Forces, which was responsible for anti-American attacks in 1983, reportedly is planning soon to engage in urban terrorism.

- In Bolivia, the US Ambassador's residence was bombed last March by elements believed associated with drug traffickers. According to US officials, a terrorist car bomb attack against the Embassy would be difficult to prevent and could have devastating results.

- In Argentina, rightist frustration prompted threats against US installations during President Alfonsin's just concluded visit to Washington. 3.5(c)

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